

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9434

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 1078

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, IR, CE

SUBJ: DEPSEC VISIT TO SOUTH ASIA: CONVERSATION WITH PRIME
MINISTER BANDARANAIKE

FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO

1. AS I WAS SAYING GOODBYE TO PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE
AFTER HER DINNER LAST NIGHT FOR INDIRA GANDHI, MRS BANDARANAIKES
FIRST COMMENT TO ME WAS THAT IT HAD BEEN " WISE" TO CALL OFF
VISIT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH AND MR SISCO. SHE SAID SHE HERSELF
HAD BEEN ADVISED AT LAST MINUTE " ON SECURITY GROUNDS" NOT TO
ATTEND DUDLEY SENANAYAKE FUNERAL AND HAD REMAINED AT
HOME. HOWEVER, WAS DOUBTFUL THAT MESSRS RUSH AND SISCO WOULD
HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET TO HER BECAUSE OF SIZE OF CROWDS.

2. I TOLD PRIME MINISTER I WAS RELIEVED TO HEAR THOSE COMMENTS
DIRECTLY FROM HER BECAUSE WE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO SEE
ONE ANOTHER WHEN MUTUAL DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED TO CANCEL
VISIT AND DECISION WAS NOT EASY ONE. I HAD SEEN DEPUTY SECRETARY
AND MR SISCO IN TEHRAN AND BOTH HAD COMPLETELY UNDERSTOOD
CIRCUMSTANCES OF CANCELLATION AND HOPED HAVE OPPORTUNITY
TO MEET HER AT SOME TIME IN FUTURE.

3. I CONCLUDED BY NOTING I HAD JUST HEARD FROM HER SPECIAL
ASSISTANT, DHARMASIRI PEIRIS, THAT MY REQUESTED APPOINT-
MENT TO SEE HER HAD BEEN SET FOR NEXT FRIDAY (MAY 4). I

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WOULD FILL HER IN AT THAT TIME ON THOSE HIGHLIGHTS OF TEHRAN

MEETING WHICH WERE OF COMMON INTEREST.

VAN HOLLEN

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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